

The manuscript by Sven-Erik Enno and colleagues reports lightning statistics from the first year of operation of the new Lightning Imager (LI) on board the Meteosat Third Generation (MTG) geostationary satellite. The capabilities of the lightning imager are clearly demonstrated and placed in the context of lightning observations from ground based lightning detection networks and the Geostationary Lightning Mapper (GLM) on board the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites (GOES). It is remarkable to see the larger flash rates arising from the preferential observation of discharges near the cloud tops. The manuscript is extremely well written, logically constructed and the figures are informative and support the text. As a result, I have only very few minor comments that might help to clarify the text for the general readership of EGU sphere.

- l31: First optical lightning detection from space was reported by Vorpahl et al., *Science*, 1970 (doi:10.1126/science.169.3948.8) and Sparrow and Ney, *Nature*, 1971, (doi:10.1038/232540a0).
- l50. Give a reference to the report on MTG-LI by Fullekrug et al. in *BAMS*, 2025 (doi: 10.1175/2025BAMSStateoftheClimate.1).
- l56: State how the absolute measurement is defined to determine the quoted detection efficiency, especially over Africa.
- l142-145: Offer potential explanations for the consistent features of false detections.
- l187: Cite Roberts et al., *BAMS*, 2021 (doi: 10.1175/BAMS-D-20-0290.2), who conducted extensive work on lightning over lake Victoria.
- l205&291: Explain why the largest value of the two instruments is favoured when compared to an average value.
- l230-231: Explain how this heightened sensitivity toward in-cloud lightning is determined.
- Fig. 1 caption: State whether the field of view shown is corrected for the parallax limitations described earlier in the manuscript.

Overall, a highly anticipated publication that is enjoyable to read and which is very likely to become a standard reference for all the future work on satellite based lightning observations over Europe and Africa during the next ~20 years.

— Martin Fullekrug